Mr. *Charles Lambe*'s OPINION, how far the Oath to King *GEORGE*, and of Abjuration, reſpect the preſent Elections of Common-Council-Men.

For the Uſe of the Inhabitants of St. *Katherine Cree-Church*.

BRETHREN,

I Do believe it is not the Buſineſs of a Clergyman to engage himſelf in any of your publick Elections, unleſs upon *juſt* Grounds he apprehends the Safety of your Souls concerned in them.

Having once in private Converſation given it as my Opinion, that it was not agreeable to the Oaths you have lately taken, to Vote for any Perſon to repreſent your Ward in *Common-Council*, who had given juſt Occaſion to be look'd upon as *ill affected* to His Majeſty King *GEORGE*, and the preſent *Eſtabliſhment*; and having upon that Account been impudently affronted, and in the Streets on Sunday laſt, publickly abus'd by one *Leonard Henchman*, of St. *Olaves Hart-ſtreet*; for my own Juſtification, and your Inſtruction, I was willing to deliver my Sentiments of this Matter, and to lay them before you in this manner.

I do ſtill perſiſt in my Opinion, as above, becauſe by your Oath you are oblig'd, *To defend King* GEORGE *to the utmoſt of your Power*; which implies not only to take up Arms in His Defence, againſt His *open* Enemies; but to diſcourage, diſcover, and oppoſe all his *ſecret* Adverſaries, to ſhut them out of all Places of Truſt, and Honour, thereby to take from them a Capacity to do *Him*, or His Adminiſtration hurt.

To repreſent a Ward in *Common-Council*, is a Place of Truſt and Honour, and puts a Man into a Capacity to injure his *King* and *Government*.

There are two Ways of judging when a Man is ill affected to the King and Government, *viz.*

By his Words. And
By his Actions.

If his whole Converſation turn upon ridiculing and reviling the KING, and His Adminiſtration; if he is ever extolling the Strength and Courage of Rebels, and giving his Reaſons to juſtifie them in the preſent Rebellion, you may fairly, and without any Violence to Chriſtian Charity, believe from his *Words*, that he is an Enemy to King *GEORGE*, and the *preſent Eſtabliſhment*.

If a Man is in open Rebellion, or if he refuſe to expreſs his Joy with the reſt of his Neighbours, by Illuminations for any Succeſs againſt the Rebels, or having it in his Power prevents the Bells Ringing.

If he makes the Prayers for the *King*, for the Peace and Safety of his Kingdom, the Subjects of his Ridicule in private Converſation, and ſhews a manifeſt Diſreſpect to them in the Publick Church, and juſtifies himſelf afterwards in that impudent, profane Behaviour, you may from ſuch his *Actions*, rightly and religiouſly determine, that he is an *Enemy to King GEORGE*, and the *preſent Eſtabliſhment*.

And I do inſiſt upon it, that by Vote, or any other Way, to give *that* Man publick Honours, or to put him into Power directly, or indirectly, to hurt the Government, is *expreſly* contrary to the Deſign and Tenure of the Oaths you have taken, and cannot be juſtified before God, or Man.

I only beg of you, Brethren, that you would take this in good Part, and believe, that it proceeds from a Neceſſity of vindicating my Self, and the Obligations I am under, as your Miniſter, to ſet you right in an Affair of ſo much Importance; in which I cannot but think your Conſciences, and your Souls greatly concern'd,

Berry-ſtreet, Dec. 19. 1715.

Who am, Brethren, Yours, faithfully in all Spiritual, and Temporal Service,
CHARLES LAMBE.